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LONELINESS

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Photo via www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca

Room and boards

One of the first notable stories revolving around our Prime Minister Elect Justin Trudeau is about his new residence. Twenty-four Sussex Drive has been the home of Canada's prime ministers since 1951, and Trudeau is now refusing to move in until proper renovations have been made.

According to reports, the 34-room mansion is in a sorry state of disrepair; there are cracked windows, faulty wiring, and asbestos in the walls. It should come as little surprise that Trudeau doesn't wish to move his family into the rundown residence. Instead, he wants to repair it, at a cost estimated to be upwards of \$10 million.

The decision has been met with widespread support across the country. Sussex Drive does not exist simply to house Canada's prime ministers and their families. The Ottawa building is often used to entertain visiting dignitaries and should be something we can take pride in. A veritable crumbling castle is a miserable impression to present to esteemed foreign guests. Kudos to Trudeau for having the country's best interests at heart.

It's very astute of him to realize how quickly he has to implement this remedy. The place obviously fell to shreds during some little-known major storm the instant he came into power.

Full stop. It did not.

How is it that the endless

stories of the astoundingly poor condition of Sussex didn't surface during Stephen Harper's time there? Harper and his family lived in the residence since he assumed power in 2006. Did he make major renovations? Did his family die as a result of the asbestos, cold, or litany of other issues? Were there rampant tales of visiting ambassadors expressing shock at the embarrassing home they were invited into?

The answer is a resounding "no" on all counts. The last one especially should resonate since the Canadian public and media seemed to be on the former prime minister for even the tiniest slip-up. Were a foreign dignitary to so much as quip about needing to keep their jacket on while inside, the papers would have had a field day. "Harper's house proves to be only thing colder than his heart," "Cheap Harper humiliates country," or similar headlines could have danced across the pages of our dailies. The ex-Conservative leader would have been buried beneath the landslide of flak.

But perhaps such events did transpire and were kept quiet by even the newspapers, because sometimes the perception of a country is more important than belittling a hated figure. Or maybe they didn't, but the mansion is a mess. Either way (and I voted NDP in case you were wondering), for Harper to put up

with such conditions is incredibly financially prudent of him. To live with subpar heating during those chillingly snowy Ottawa winters is a task most governmental heads wouldn't take on. Harper should be praised for his efforts to save Canadians every last dime.

However, since we live in a country where it's impossible for anyone to give genuine praise to Lego-hair, that can't be the case. We'll step away from Harper's involvement for a moment.

Sussex Drive is, of course, maintained throughout the year *anyway*. In fact, costs for 2008-09 and 2009-10 were almost \$1.5- and \$1.1-million respectively. Utility servicing, including electricity and gas, were under \$100,000, meaning that general upkeep and work done to the residence was still in the \$1-million range (security costs not included in these figures). The *weekly* pool maintenance came in at just under \$10,000—yet supposedly needs more work. Fun fact: the heated indoor pool was installed by Trudeau's father when he was prime minister.

It seems curious that cracked windows would be ignored while the swimming pool saw nearly \$40,000 a month. Nearly \$10,000 were spent on flowers as well... perhaps to hide the windows.

There are two conclusions that can be drawn from the evidence on the table. Either 24 Sussex Drive, as reported by

the journalists who have been privileged to visit, is as shoddy as we're all lead to believe and Harper is actually deserving of our admiration, *or* the residence is not shoddy at all and an effort has been made to deceive the public for some unstated purpose—maybe so as to make the allocation of funds towards a remodel spectacularly easy to procure.

In any case, I can't help but find it amusing how the story has been covered. For a nation purported by every left winger to be heavily populated with hard right-wing newspapers, the exceptional disdain for Harper and unlimited support for Trudeau is remarkable. I'm no Harper fan, but I think we can all agree if he were the one refusing to make Sussex Drive his home until millions of dollars were poured into it, every soul would be calling for his head. Meanwhile, Trudeau is being carried on jubilant shoulders for taking the necessary measures to ensure the hugely important building is kept in respectable shape—a.k.a. the same thing.

All's fair in love, war, and politics? Evidently not.

Danke danke,

Eric Wilkins

Editor-in-Chief

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- 🕒 The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.
- 🕒 The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.
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This issue:

- ✓ BC residents place bets on already-won race
 - ✓ Massive earthquake rips through South Asia
 - ✓ Vancouver City Council decides against Uber
- And more!

Canada Post returns to addresses

» Controversial community mailbox plan scrapped amid controversy



Mercedes Deutscher
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Canada Post will be backtracking on a decision made in December 2013 to convert door-to-door mail service to community mailboxes.

The decision was announced by Canada Post CEO Deepak Chopra on October 26 that the project had been scrapped. The decision came as a result of the new Liberal majority government being elected, as they ran on a campaign promise to restore the door-to-door service.

"We are committed to implementing our platform and the details outlined within it, including those focusing on Canada Post," Liberal Party spokesperson Cameron Ahmad told the *Toronto Star*.

Although not asked to directly by either Justin Trudeau or the Liberal Party, Chopra took it upon himself to stop the project. Mail delivery to 300,000



Image via canadapost.com

Canadian addresses had already transferred to community boxes, some converting mere hours before the announcement.

The move to switch over to community mailboxes nationwide was expected to save Canada Post \$500,000 per year, according to the *Toronto Star*, and would have affected 32 per cent of Canadians, mainly those who reside in larger cities.

The reasons behind originally converting the door-

to-door service to community mailboxes came from the significant boom in electronic correspondence, resulting in a decline of 1.4 billion pieces of mail since 2006.

"A project of this magnitude cannot be measured in hours or one week or one day," Chopra said to the *Toronto Star*. "It's, as I mentioned, a long planning cycle with equipment and restructuring and employee impact. So we have to do it

in a way that is respectful to making sure that the service remains. That's job one."

Although reversing the decision 22 months later was frustrating to many, Chopra says that halting the project any sooner would have been impossible.

"That's a ridiculous assertion," counters Mike Palecek, President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, to the *Toronto Star*. "It

would have taken a phone call to tell people 'just keep delivering as normal.' Instead they wanted to rush through the cuts."

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers had filed a lawsuit against Canada Post earlier in the year because of the conversion, since some postal workers would find themselves without a job once the conversion would have completed. The lawsuit gained the support of several municipalities, including Montreal. The city's mayor, Denis Coderre, used a jackhammer on the base of a community mailbox to show his support for the postal workers.

Coderre suggested to CBC that the lawsuit could be dropped should the door-to-door service be officially restored. He said on the day of the Canada Post announcement: "... Clearly we have to have a truce—because you have to be vigilant with Canada Post, we never know. They say one thing and then the next day, who knows what happens."

Are hot dogs causing cancer?

» New study from WHO declares preservative meats cause colon cancer

Aaron Guillen
 Staff Reporter

On an average day, one might wake up and grab a BLT at a local coffee shop, pick up a burger at a nearby fast food restaurant for lunch, and, at night, indulge in a plate of spaghetti and meatballs. Compared to the average consumer, it might not seem like a death sentence, but many are increasing their chances of cancer in the not-so-distant future.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently revealed a study that states that preservative meats may cause colon cancer. In the report, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) uncovered how carcinogenic certain types of meat were. On a scale of 1–5—1 having the most evidence to link it to cancer—meats like hot dogs, pepperoni, and bacon received a rating of 1, alongside cancer-causers like tobacco and asbestos. The severity of carcinogens present

in any meat product depends on what is used to preserve it and how it is prepared.

Firstly, processed meat has either been cured, smoked, salted, or had chemicals such as sodium nitrate injected into it to preserve its former state. Most people question the chemicals inserted, but science has proven that as long as consumers are conscious of their consumption, they won't have much to worry about. In fact, sodium nitrate is found in most vegetables, including spinach, beets, carrots, and celery.

"According to a 2009 study, approximately 80 per cent of dietary nitrates in a person's diet are obtained from vegetable consumption," claimed HealthLine Networks, a privately owned provider of health information for healthcare providers and health plans. Unfortunately, too high of an intake has the potential to cause colon cancer.

Secondly, the way any meat is prepared affects how the

body reacts to it. Foods that are broiled, grilled, or barbecued will have carcinogens present as they are digested. The buildup of such a dangerous byproduct is similar to that of cigarette smoke. For example, when roasting marshmallows over a fire, sometimes they will catch on fire and transform the outer layer into a crunchy texture with a smoky flavor; that taste might hold a grim future if enough of them are consumed.

WHO has painted dire circumstances, presumably in the hopes of discouraging the consumption of processed meat products. However, just as tobacco is addictive, the taste of meat similarly mimics this as well.

The Canadian Cancer Society said to CTV that "based on the most recent evidence, adults should try to limit red meat to three servings per week. Taking into account the size of one serving, you're looking at a little smaller than a deck of cards."



Image via thinkstock

BC residents place bets on already-won race

» How an early election call influenced the result



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All throughout the red sweep of the Atlantic provinces, the declaration of a new prime minister, and the probability of a liberal majority projected, polls in British Columbia remained open.

Canada separates into four and a half time zones. Usually, time zones never really seem to affect daily West Coast life all too much. That is, until the third Monday of October, every (at least) four years. It was due to this difference in time zones that BC voters found themselves with a new prime minister, with hours to spare in their opportunity to go out and vote.

As the Westernmost province with only 42 seats up for grabs, BC has never quite been a game changer in the race to Parliament. Most federal elections are decided long before polling stations in the west close their doors on Election Day, although this was the first federal election that British Columbians were able to watch full coverage, starting at 4 p.m. PST.

Section 329 of the Canada Elections Act states: “No person shall transmit the result or purported result of the vote

in an electoral district to the public in another electoral district before the close of all of the polling stations in that other electoral district.”

The section would have ideally kept voters in later time zones from knowing the results of ridings that had already been decided. Natalie Babin Dufresne, the Assistant Director of External Relations at Elections Canada, said that this section of the act was repealed in 2014 due to its lack of practicality.

Dufresne said that the repeal “was based on recommendations by the chief electoral officer simply because it wasn’t really [feasible] in this age of modern communications.” However, with the section repealed, election results were free to be broadcast the moment St. John’s polls began closing, three hours before BC’s.

Some British Columbia voters, like Jackie Fekete, were aware that election results were being broadcast before BC’s polls were closed, though did not want it to influence their decision.

“I’d been trying to ignore it,” Fekete said, regarding the news that Justin Trudeau had been projected to be Canada’s next prime minister. Fekete had to wait until after class on Monday before going to cast her ballot, and by that time,



Image via thestar.com

the Liberals had all but secured a majority government.

“That’s why I didn’t want to look, I didn’t want to think, ‘Oh, I should change my vote based on what is happening,’” Fekete said, when asked if knowing the information would have swayed her towards voting Liberal.

Courtney Striker, a fourth-year political science and gender studies student at the University of Victoria, was working as a polling clerk in Victoria on October 19, so she opted to vote during the advance polls.

Polls closed in BC at 7 p.m., and, as stated on Elections Canada’s website: “The voting

hours are staggered so that the majority of results are available at approximately the same time on election night.”

Striker said those who were in the building at 7 p.m. could still vote, and the last voters casting a ballot stayed as late as 7:15 p.m. Striker worries that prematurely called elections may contribute to BC voters feeling as if their vote is wasted, though notes, “It’s not at all a good reason to not vote, because it’s about exercising a democratic right that’s not afforded to so many populations around the world.”

“In the end,” Striker

said, “if the numbers say that enough people feel like it’s an issue, then broadcasters should hold off on revealing counts until precisely 7 p.m.”

When asked if Elections Canada had any modernized plans underway to address this issue the way Section 329 did in the past, Dufresne said that that remains a legislative issue, and that Elections Canada is “here to implement the law as parliament wishes it.”

It appears it is in the hands of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to see if BC voters will be avoiding election “spoiler alerts” come next federal election.

Whale-watching vessel capsizes in Tofino

» Tragic accident leads to five deaths and one missing

Cazzy Lewchuk
Staff Writer

On October 25, a whale-watching vessel sank off the coast of Tofino, BC. A total of 27 people were on board the *Leviathan II* when it capsized, prompting a mass search-and-rescue mission. Tragically, five people died in the accident, with another who is still missing at press time. All five victims were British citizens, with the missing being an Australian national.

While investigations are still being conducted by the Transportation and Safety Board (TSB), the boat was reportedly capsized by a rogue wave. Tofino is well-known for its extreme waves, making it an international tourist destination for surfing in addition to camping, fishing, and whale-watching.

The victims were identified by the BC Coroner’s Services as David Thomas, 50; his son Stephen, 18; Nigel Hooker,

63; Katie Taylor, 29; and Jack Slater, 76. The missing man has been unofficially identified as Rav Pillay.

Among those who were the first to witness, report, and aid the accident were members of local fishing boats alongside other whale-watching vessels and local Ahousaht First Nations residents, who are credited with helping to save the 21 survivors.

Premier Christy Clark specifically praised the Ahousaht First Nations people on October 27 in a press conference, stating: “The Ahousaht First Nation did not miss a beat. First Nations on this coast have been fishing it for millennia. Nobody knows the water better.”

Clark also elaborated that the government will be working to provide further emergency response training to local First Nations in the future.

Marc-André Poisson, director of marine investigations for the TSB, told CBC in a press

statement that most of the passengers would have been on one side of the boat when the wave hit. “This would have raised the centre of gravity, affecting the vessel’s stability [...] None of this preliminary information should be used in isolation to draw any conclusions at this point.”

Efforts are underway by the TSB to recover the *Leviathan II* to salvage and refloat the wreck. Some electronic instruments from the boat has already been recovered and sent away for observation, which will hopefully provide explanations for the chain of events that led to the capsizing.

The business owning the *Leviathan II*, Jamie’s Whaling Station, closed after the accident and has not reopened. However, most other businesses in the area have resumed as usual. The accident is not expected to hurt the tourist trade in Tofino, which attracts as many as one million visitors each year.



Image by Albert Titan via Facebook

Massive earthquake rips through South Asia

» Death toll tops 360 and is expected to rise

Aleeze Asif
Contributor

Just six months after a deadly magnitude-7.8 earthquake killed thousands in Nepal, South Asia was hit with another earthquake of immense proportions. The earthquake struck around 2 a.m. PST, on October 26, measuring at 7.5 on the Richter scale according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Its epicenter was the Hindu Kush mountain range in north-east Afghanistan. Tremors were felt hundreds of miles away in Pakistan and Northern India.

Although the earthquake had its epicenter in Afghanistan, the majority of the fatalities reported so far are from Pakistan. CNN has reported 248 fatalities in Pakistan, 115 in Afghanistan, and a single death from the Indian side of the disputed territory Kashmir. These numbers are expected to rise significantly as rescue teams continue their efforts.

Alisha Yaseen, a student, was alone in her house when the quake shuddered her house “slowly at first, then more and more violently.” She opened up about her experience, saying: “I could see the fan, the fridge and the wall hangings shake left and right. It was so dreadful. When I came outside on the road, I could see my neighbours and office workers standing and praying to Allah for their forgiveness.”

Yaseen expressed her



Image via Hazrat Ali Bacha/ Reuters

concern about the fact that no one was ever educated on what to do in case an earthquake ever hit. “It is a sad reality but no seminars have been conducted in the schools and colleges. The kids do not need to practice how to evacuate the school buildings and how not to rush into each other, [but] the news channels do provide you with the helpful information on how to secure yourself from any mishaps during the earthquake.”

Muhammad Lateef, an administrator at a preschool, revealed the chaos that the earthquake caused in his district. “Everyone was running towards the exits, reciting verses from the Quran. The adults seemed far more frightened than the children, maybe because the children aren’t as aware of the destruction an earthquake can cause. I’m not easily frightened, but the way the buildings were swaying, I

didn’t know buildings could do that. I saw two buildings that were about a foot-apart touch slightly a few times as the earthquake made them waver side to side. They were scraping concrete off one another!”

Lateef continued, expressing his worry for his friends who went to Neelum Valley in the northern areas of Pakistan over the weekend: “The quakes always take their toll on the northern areas. I

can’t reach them. I don’t know if they’ll make it back.”

The northern mountainous areas of Pakistan are chockfull of unstable, poorly made structures. The infrastructural development of these areas has been neglected by the government as the Pakistani Army tries to keep the Taliban and other extremist groups from gaining power.

Rescuers are trying desperately to access the remote areas in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where the earthquake ripped through the region, causing landslides and flattening houses.

The quake has left thousands of families homeless. Officials have expressed concern about pushing aid towards parts of Afghanistan where there is a growing presence of the Taliban. Yet even the Taliban has urged humanitarian groups to not hold back aid to the victims.

The Oxfam group’s humanitarian director Jane Cocking told CNN that as the harsh winters close in, the survivors who have lost their homes to the earthquake “will need protection from the elements, food, clean water and hygiene essentials.”

Oxfam, The British Red Cross, UNICEF, Doctors without Borders and other non-profit organizations continue to provide aid to areas affected, accepting donations and providing aid to the victims of this tragic disaster.

China now allowing for two children in urban families

» Controversial one-child policy lifted after 35 years



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As an attempt to create a stable workforce in the future, the Communist Party of China will loosen its strict one-child policy beginning in March to now allow families to have two children. The decision was made in hopes that couples will have more children who can grow up to better support China’s large aging population.

For the last 35 years, families in urban areas were only allowed to have one child in order to slow the booming population of over one billion people. Families in rural areas were sometimes allowed to bear two children.

The one-child policy has continued to be controversial over the span of its existence,

and many argue that it has resulted in several problems for the economy and society.

Socially, the one-child policy has resulted in a mismatch of gender demographics. According to the *Globe and Mail*, there are 12 boys for every 10 girls in the under-15 age demographic, presumably a result of sex-selected abortions and female infanticide.

Families have often lived in fear of the government simply for wanting to have more children. Since the one-child policy was put into place, 336 million Chinese women have had abortions, and many of them, if not a majority, were forced. Tens of millions of women have been sterilized by the government.

Millions of Chinese residents were born and continue to live without

citizenship, simply due to being second or third children of poor families who could not afford to pay the fines associated with having more than one child. These people cannot officially work or seek out any civic service.

Even with the reversal of the policy, China will still eventually face the economic hardships that will come from a falling population. By allowing two children per family, that decline will start in 2034, instead of the previously projected 2029 with the one-child policy. It is problematic because there will simply not be enough workers to supply all of China and support the retired population. The current fertility rate in China is 1.7, where at least 2.1 is needed to maintain the population.

“They should actually



Image via thinkstock

have abolished this long ago,” Cai Yong, a population expert working at the University of North Carolina, said to the *Globe and Mail*. “China missed its best opportunity to relax the policy when people were still willing to have a

second or even third child.”

Yong predicts that there will be a slight baby boom over the next few years, but the boom will quickly relax and fertility rates will continue at their current rate.

All I Want for Christmas is 'El Niño'?

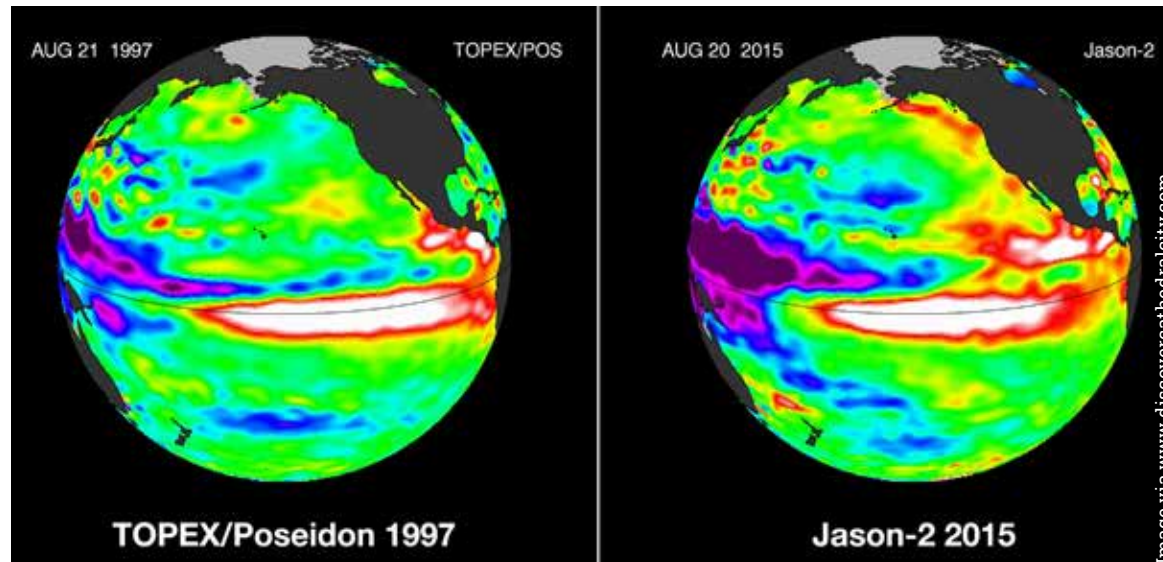
» El Niño may bring a milder and warmer winter than previous years

Aaron Guillen
Staff Reporter

El Niño, a mass of unusually warm ocean water that is transferred by wind currents, has significantly emerged along the equatorial region of the globe for the first time since 2010. Weather shifts such as these, usually occurring every two to five years, have been known to “rock the boat”—and this time around have brought devastating results to the people of Mexico.

Mexico was recently hit by Hurricane Patricia—a category-five hurricane with wind currents of up to 325 km/h fueled by El Niño’s warm temperature. These numbers broke records held back in 2005 by Hurricane Wilma, which had reached highs of 295 km/h. Storms at such high category ratings ensure maximum catastrophic damage, which Mexicans located in the southwest are still recovering from.

While meteorologists predict horrible droughts in Australia, overwhelming floods in Peru and Ecuador, and a bad



monsoon season in scattered parts of Asia, the outlook for Canada doesn’t seem so dire.

David Philipps, Environment Canada’s senior climatologist, shared his insight with CTV’s Canada AM: “It typically doesn’t arrive for us until late fall and winter. Yet unlike the rest of the world, it does create, perhaps for some people, a good news story. If you don’t like your winters tough, El Niño does bring balmy-than-normal weather.” Philipps has been predicting the effects of

El Niño on the Canadian winter since back in May. So, what can we expect from the upcoming winter season?

Starting off with Atlantic Canada, there will likely be a significant drop in the number of hurricanes. Precipitation in the form of rain rather than snow is the projected outcome in the coming months for the East.

Meanwhile in Central Canada, if El Niño is strong, the populations of Ontario and Quebec will be able to evade

the repeat of a harsh winter. “Ontarians and Quebecers may have to break out the rain boots more often than not,” suggests CBC.

Over in the Prairies, winters are usually dry, so El Niño will have a minimal impact. The results of the system will be more recognizable come spring—there will most likely be fewer floods, a relief for residents remembering the damage done by ones in years past.

The North is expected

to mimic minimal impact, contingent on the warmer gusts making their way to the uppermost region. A five-degree difference during the winter is the worst that could occur. There will still be a bounty of ice and a demand for snowmobiles.

On the Pacific Coast, British Columbians will receive the bulk effects of El Niño on Canada. As the closest location to the warm body of water, BC residents might not see snow this year. Yet have no fear, rain somehow always finds its way back to Vancouver.

As El Niño unleashes onto Canada in late fall or early winter, only then will forecasters be able to make more precise predictions. Philipps implied to CBC that there was no need to jump to conclusions: “Would I cancel my winter holiday? No, I wouldn’t.”

Only time will tell. There’s no mistaking that the slopes in Whistler might not have as much snow as hoped, so plan ahead this holiday season and be prepared for a not-so-white Christmas.

Vancouver City Council decides against Uber

» Uber will not be allowed to start service downtown despite speculation

Mercedes Deutscher
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Despite a shortage of taxis available in Vancouver, especially during peak hours on weekends, ride-share businesses such as Uber will not be allowed to start servicing the Vancouver area. The decision was made by the Vancouver City Council on October 29.

“What council decided unanimously is we should stick with what we know and are doing well, which is providing quality taxi service,” Vancouver City Councillor Geoff Meggs said to CTV. “The ride sharing issue [...] really belongs at the provincial level.”

In addition to disallowing ride-sharing, the city also decided against enlisting help from suburban taxi companies during weekend rushes due to the differences between their contracts and those of Vancouver.

“To solve a problem here and create it somewhere else doesn’t make any sense,” Kalwant Sahota, president of Yellow Cabs, told CBC.

According to CBC, Vancouver doesn’t even have

half the amount of taxis per capita as Halifax and Montreal.

Those working for Vancouver taxi companies rejoiced at the decision, many of whom have been ardently against Uber starting service in Vancouver.

“It’s not push back from us. It’s about making a proper living,” said Carolyn Bauer, general manager of Yellow Cabs, to CBC.

Bauer went on to say that Uber hadn’t attempted to obtain a licence to operate in Vancouver, although she also expressed that she was not opposed to Uber entering the city so long as drivers were held to the same standards as those for taxi companies.

The city hopes to decrease wait times for taxis by adding 99 new licences into the system exclusively for Fridays and Saturdays.

Michael Van Hemmen, the public policy manager for Uber Canada, argued to CBC that Uber would not infringe on the profits of taxi companies in Vancouver, a fear that is held by many who work in the Vancouver taxi industry. Van Hemmen instead argues that due to the increasing number of people deciding to opt



out of buying a car, Uber would help alleviate the workload. In addition, he says that Uber could help increase the number of those wanting rides in and out of Vancouver, and that the safety

fears about Uber are common misconceptions that can be broken down through discussion.

Van Hemmen is not the only person disagreeing with the city council’s decision. Some have

accused the city council of being biased, having accepted a \$53,000 donation from the Vancouver Taxi Association during the 2014 municipal election.

Fill your fall with local film festivals

» Film screenings in New Westminster and Coquitlam



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With last month's Vancouver International Film Festival now in the past, it's time to start exploring this month's film festivals. This week, two popular film festivals will be gracing local venues with the NewWest FilmFest appearing at Landmark Cinemas in New Westminster on November 5-7, and the Geocaching International Film Festival taking place at the Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam on November 8.

The NewWest FilmFest, formerly the New West Doc Fest, promises an exciting three days packed with popular, thought-provoking films that have toured major film festivals. The festival will also include Q-and-A sessions, short films, and a tour of CG Master School of 3D Animation & VFX.

"Our goal is to offer New Westminster and nearby communities a chance to see world-class cinema in a theatre near them," said Deni Loubert, who works with the festival.

"College students should recognize many of these films as they have generated a lot

of hype in the last year. They include *This Changes Everything*, based on the latest Naomi Klein book of the same title; Laura Poitras' documentary on Edward Snowden, *Citizenfour*; and Jon Stewart's directorial debut drama, *Rosewater*."

One of the films playing on November 7 is a Canadian film called *Borealis* by Sean Garrity. It follows an unemployed gambler, Jonah (Jonas Chernick), and his teenaged daughter, Aurora (Joey King), as they go on a road trip to see the Northern Lights before Aurora's failing vision leaves her completely blind.

Another film playing that night is Sebastian Schipper's *Victoria*. This German heist thriller has won numerous awards and gained a great deal of attention because the entire film is shot in one continuous take.

For more information on the festival or to purchase tickets, go to NewWestFilmFest.ca

The Geocaching International Film Festival celebrates all things to do with geocaching, which is a treasure hunt created by participants on Geocaching.com. Geocachers hide objects in different locations around



Naomi Klein in 'This Changes Everything'

town and then post information about their hidden caches for other geocachers to find.

The 16 short films featured in GIFF are only four minutes long or less, and capture geocaching around the world. There will be short films from Australia, Germany, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, and Vietnam as well as two films from Canada, three from the UK, and four from the USA.

The managing director for

Metro Vancouver Geocaching, who goes by his geocaching nickname Catapult Jeff, describes the short films as "wild, crazy, and fun loving." They include titles such as *Geo-Caching Freak*, *THE BEST GEOCACHING FILM OF ALL TIME EVER!* and *How to Geocache like a Ballerina*. The films were selected for the festival from hundreds of submissions by geocachers.

"I don't believe you have to

be a geocacher to enjoy GIFF," Jeff said. "I think it would certainly give an interesting view on the geocaching world."

For more information on the NewWest FilmFest or to purchase tickets, go to NewWestFilmFest.ca, and for more information about GIFF, check out the official Geocaching website or the Metro Vancouver Geocaching website at MVGeocaching.com

Get ready for a witch hunt

» 'The Last Witch Hunter' movie review

Lauren Paulsen
Senior Columnist



The Last Witch Hunter is about a man named Kaulder (Vin Diesel) who goes after the Witch Queen (Julie Engelbrecht) after her plague kills his wife and daughter during the Middle Ages. He manages to take her out, but she curses him with immortality because he no longer wants to live after completing his revenge. Fast forward to the present day, and Kaulder has now lived 800 years. Witches have formed a peace treaty with humans, but there are still some evil witches out there whom Kaulder hunts down. Throughout the years, Kaulder has had handlers who've aided him in his witch hunts. When his current handler, Dolan 36th

(Michael Caine), suddenly dies, Kaulder finds it suspicious. He decides to look into it, and finds that dark magic is afoot.

The plot is fairly lacking and predictable, but I wouldn't write this movie off altogether. The special effects were really amazing.—there were some disgustingly creepy monsters, as well as some beautiful magic moments. I also loved the witty banter between Diesel and Caine, especially finding it amusing that Diesel would call Caine "Kid." I also found Diesel a lot more expressive than in his other movies. He still had his bad dude-vibe going on, but he seemed more vulnerable at parts than I have seen from his previous characters, such as Riddick.

As for the other actors, I really enjoyed *Game of Thrones'* Rose Leslie's portrayal of Chloe, Kaulder's semi-love

interest, and I felt that her acting was very solid. I liked her character a lot, although I did find one aspect of her character to be very convenient to the plot, but that's the script-writer's doing, not hers.

Elijah Wood also showed up in this movie, playing Dolan the 37th, but I was disappointed in his acting. His character felt shallow, and I didn't really connect with him at any point.

As for Engelbrecht, this was her debut piece. We didn't see a whole lot of her during the movie, but during the parts that we did, she did a really great job of being the creepy, decidedly evil Witch Queen. Also, congrats to the Witch Queen's makeup team; her appearance certainly gave me the heebie-jeebies.

One thing that bothered me about this movie is the title. *The Last Witch Hunter* implies that Kaulder is now the only



Vin Diesel in 'The Last Witch Hunter'

person who hunts witches. This is misleading, as there are other people who hunt them. It has a nice ring to it but doesn't really fit the context here. Maybe I'm just nitpicking, but I feel that if they wanted to use this title, then the plot should have been altered somewhat. Maybe that's

my inner writer coming out.

Basically, if you are looking for a movie with lots of action and special effects, or if you've liked Diesel's other movies, then this is one you should see. Don't look for a very deep or intricate plot, though.



Kathleen Katon Tonnesen and Jeffrey in front of Jeffrey portrait



Avocations

Celebrate a community's creative works

» Douglas College staff and student art on display



Cheryl Minns
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Ever wonder if your fellow classmates, instructors, or employees at Douglas College make art in their spare time? Now is your chance to find out at the Douglas College staff and student art exhibit, *Avocations*, at the Amelia Douglas Gallery. Twenty artists have their work on display in the gallery, ranging from paintings and photographs to ceramics and jewellery, with a few other unique pieces in the mix.

Trena Hollands works in the theatre department and has three works in the gallery. The first piece, "Mythical Creatures," is two plastic sculptures of fantastical man-beasts. The next two pieces are oil paintings: "The Fool," a rabbit portraying the appearance and gestures of the Fool card in a tarot deck, and "Corgis of Fortune," a pair of Corgi dogs working

a Ouija board together.

"Our mythical creatures are like a modification of ourselves with actual animals," she said, describing her "Mythical Creatures" piece. "They were inspired by Jungian dream theory and what we would be if we were without all of our societies and things that are put on us that become part of who we are."

Like the sculptures, her paintings also involve animals, but have more of a focus on the supernatural.

"These ones are more inline with exploration, the occult, what's on the other side, what is the whole purpose of this strange journey of life," Hollands said about the paintings.

Along the gallery wall that backs onto the Laura C. Muir Performing Arts Theatre is a mixed variety of paintings from different artists. At the centre of the row of paintings are three red-and-black acrylic paintings by Kathleen Katon Tonnesen, a psychology student.

One of Tonnesen's paintings is a portrait of an older gentleman with dreadlocks, titled "Jeffrey." The painting depicts the man's appearance so clearly that, when he attended the exhibit's opening reception on October 29, he was easily recognised by several guests and was asked to pose for a photo next to the portrait. He kindly agreed and posed for several photos alongside Tonnesen.

Many of the works in the *Avocations* exhibit are available for purchase from the artists. Prices range from \$35 for "Procyon lotor"—a painted rock featuring a lifelike raccoon image by criminology student Daria Korshun—to \$10,000 for each of Tonnesen's paintings. Some pieces are not for sale, while others require that buyers ask the artist for the price.

Avocations will be on display until December 11 in the Amelia Douglas Gallery, located on the fourth floor of the Douglas College New Westminster campus.



Mythical Creatures by Trena Hollands

Comic Corner: Less than super

» 'Jessica Jones: Alias Vol. 1' review



Brittney MacDonald
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Comic fans are waiting with bated breath to see if the new Marvel/Netflix collaboration, *Jessica Jones*, is as successful as their last attempt, *Daredevil*. Curious, I decided to check out the character of Jessica Jones before her small screen debut. But *Jessica Jones: Alias* by Brian Michael Bendis just doesn't live up to its interesting concept. In short, it's a missed opportunity.

The story of Jessica Jones is a pretty fascinating one. It tackles the issue of superheroes with

less than stellar powers. What do you do when you're not normal, but you're not strong enough to fight alongside the likes of Thor? Apparently, you open a detective agency that deals mostly in superhuman investigations.

Overall, I liked the character of Jones: she's crass and funny, but I found that in trying to portray a very reality-based world, Bendis allowed that aspect to overtake his narrative. The constant reminders that Jones is still human, and has to do things like go to the bathroom and deal with menstrual cramps, got very tedious and weighed the plot down too much. It became distracting rather than something that drove the narrative.

Jessica Jones: Alias suffers from an artistic issue that I like to call "cover syndrome," where the cover art misleads a potential reader. Though Bill Sienkiewicz's cover art is beautiful, stylistically it is extremely different than the art inside, which is done by Michael Gaydos. Aesthetically, Gaydos uses heavy cell shading, but his work lacks the detail that makes that choice effective, so the art comes off looking very paint-by-numbers.

Though I still have high hopes for the Netflix original series, I can't say I enjoyed *Jessica Jones: Alias*. I probably won't be buying the next installment, and definitely won't be recommending it to anyone.



Image via playbuzz

Beautiful new 'Tales' may take a while

» 'Tales of Zestiria' video game review

Lauren Paulsen
Senior Columnist



The *Tales* series, developed by Bandai Namco Studios, has been very popular for years. I'd been meaning to try out some of the games in the series, but never got around to it, so it didn't take much convincing on my brother's part to get me to purchase the new installment in the series, *Tales of Zestiria*. Though I haven't played too far into it, I am glad that I got the game, despite a few flaws.

The graphics are absolutely stunning, especially the scenery. If you have a strong enough computer system, then I think you should have the highest settings that you can for the graphics to fully enjoy this experience. If you don't and have to lower them like me, don't despair—they are still quite stunning even on low settings. I think the scenery and details are among my favourite aspects to this game.

I cannot attest too much to the story so far, as I haven't delved far enough into it since this is a massive game that will take many, many hours to complete. The story follows Sorey, a young man blessed with magical powers that allow him to see the Seraphim, angel analogues who aren't visible to normal humans. He also gains the ability to purify hellions, creatures spawned by malevolent energy, early in the story. Sorey travels the land with his friends to defeat these hellions and save humanity from the malevolence that has overtaken it. It's a very typical story that I have seen a lot, but I am still finding it enjoyable.

My biggest peeve is the amount of lag in the game. I have a really decent computer, but even so I've had to set all of the video graphic settings to low just to get any decent number of frames per second, and even this still has not completely gotten rid of the lag. Although it's no wonder when you look at the size of the game on your hard drive—it



Screenshot from 'Tales of Zestiria'

is massive. This does not seem to be a problem on the PS4 platform, only the Windows version from Steam. I'm going to have to look into whether I can improve the performance more, or I'll be stuck with frustration over how long it takes to do anything.

Another few problems I had with the game may or may not have to do with my lag problems. I started off the game playing with subtitles, but found that they were quite late when compared to the

audio. My brother has told me that he found this problem too, and that there are updates in the works to fix it. I also found the pauses between characters speaking far too long and sometimes irritating. I think this is actually part of the game, as even when I improved the performance for lag, I still found the pauses to be the same length. This is different during optional cut scenes that you can choose to view when at certain save points or points of interest. These scenes don't have the

awkward, unnatural pauses.

If you like RPGs as much as I do, then you will really enjoy playing this game. I just suggest that you look into your computer's specs before purchasing the Windows version. Otherwise, you'll probably want to get the PS4 version instead. The lag can cause quite a bit of frustration and detract from the game, but if you're able to play it without that, then I'd really recommend getting *Tales of Zestiria*.

New 'Halo' game offers impressive visuals, same old story

» 'Halo 5: Guardians' video game review

Alex Stanton
Staff Writer



Halo 5: Guardians is the first of the series to grace the Xbox One, and the second in the Reclaimer story arc by 343 Industries. The game keeps the famous *Halo* gameplay mostly intact, electing to innovate through level design, experimental multiplayer game types, and storytelling that, like the entire *Halo* franchise, leaves a whole lot to be desired.

The game picks up eight months after the end of *Halo 4*, which ended with iconic super-soldier Master Chief experiencing a major tragedy with the loss of his AI companion Cortana. Suffering from immense grief and knowing that he's suspected of war crimes, the Chief and a squad of three of his closest confidants go AWOL, disappearing with nary a warning.

In an interesting twist on the otherwise formulaic plot, unlike every other main series

Halo title, you spend almost no time with the Master Chief himself. In response to his desertion, the UNSC sends a four-man squad codenamed Osiris Team to track him down. Jameson Locke, the leader of Osiris Team, is the protagonist of *Halo 5: Guardians* and the sole playable character for roughly 80 per cent of the game's more than 10-hour-long campaign.

The biggest problem I have with the *Halo* series—with the shining exception of *ODST*—is the story. *Halo 5: Guardians* is no exception. The *Halo* expanded universe includes films, comic books, and novels, every detail of which adds to the incredibly convoluted lore of the universe. Many of the tertiary stories in the *Halo* universe are pretty much required reading to fully grasp what's going on. This doesn't happen in franchises where the expanded universe is done well.

But in the end the plot is only an incentive for these space soldiers to go on a galaxy-wide adventure. This new release marks the first time that *Halo* is playable in a glorious 60 frames per second, showing off just how buttery smooth



Image via 343 Industries

next gen shooting can be.

Among the things that have changed just enough to feel familiar and fresh is the iconic online multiplayer experience, the overhauled ranking system, and the Warzone game type, in which you and 11 teammates defend a base against swarms of AI enemies. These are the kind of subtle changes that enhance instead of alter the experience you have.

One change that will undoubtedly cause long-time *Halo* fans to scratch their heads is the removal of all offline multiplayer capabilities. Historically, *Halo* has allowed players to play with four friends offline, sharing the screen in campaign, deathmatch, and firefight modes. I can't imagine it being a deal-breaker in a world where online multiplayer is the norm, but it strikes me

as a super questionable, even unintelligent, decision.

In terms of mid-trilogy stories, *Halo 5: Guardians* certainly isn't *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. But for all the little things that rub me the wrong way about this game, I can't recommend against it because it's *Halo*. Sometimes, even when it comes to endlessly franchised video games, more of the same can be a good thing.

Crowded Bookshelf: Digging up the past

» 'Nagash' trilogy book review

Duncan Fingarson
Columnist

Readers of my previous columns will know that I'm a fan of *Warhammer 40,000*, Games Workshop's more popular science-fiction setting. But I've yet to talk about anything from their *Warhammer Fantasy* setting, which I also love. It's got a lot of the standard fantasy archetypes—dwarves, elves, humans, halflings, most of which have some sort of unique spin on them—but it's also got a few things that are all its own. Where else can you find a race of megalomaniacal magitech Ratmen? The setting predates *Warhammer 40,000*'s creation, and has a long and detailed background filled with mythic heroes and villains. This is the focus of Mike Lee's *Nagash* trilogy.

Nagash is hugely important to the fantasy setting. He's the creator of the art of Necromancy, and could well be considered the setting's biggest villain. I've always found him to be a tremendously interesting character, and he features

significantly in the history of my two favourite factions out of the Fantasy setting. He's the driving force behind the fall of Nehekharra (think Ancient Egypt) and arguably comes closer than anyone to actually defeating the Skaven (the aforementioned megalomaniacal Ratmen). However, he was not always hugely powerful, nor did he always stay that way.

The first book, *Nagash the Sorcerer*, covers the parts of Nagash's life where he still counts as human. He starts out as the high priest of Nehekharra, but he dreams of being king. Nagash is a schemer and he secretly learns magic from captured elves before launching a coup, murdering the rightful king and plunging the land into darkness. Never satisfied with the power he does wield, Nagash builds the Black Pyramid in an effort to gather more. Much of the book is focused on the conflict between Nagash and the holdouts of the old empire, the brave few willing to fight him. Ultimately he is forced to flee, though he leaves the empire nearly in ruins

behind him when he goes.

Book two, *Nagash the Unbroken*, deals with the aftermath of Nagash's fall and his establishing of a new power base. His choice of home leads to conflict with the Skaven over Warpstone, a magical mineral that both sides want to control. Back in Nehekharra, the lore that Nagash left behind is still causing trouble. Thinking the sorcerer has been defeated, some of his old servants have tried to gain power of their own, and, without a common enemy, much of the already-damaged empire is embroiled in political manoeuvring. This is the shortest, and probably the weakest, of the three books, but it does its job well of setting everything up for book three.

Nagash Immortal launches into things right where book two ended, with a massive invasion by the Skaven. Once again, things are split between multiple plot threads as a new king rises in Nehekharra, one capable of finally uniting the many people who live there. Unfortunately, he's also the last king the empire will ever see. All



Image via amazon.ca

of Nagash's machinations come to a head and the sorcerer sees himself revenged upon the land of his birth. This is probably the best of the three books, and the character of Alcadizzar, the last king of Nehekharra, is likeable and easy to cheer for even when you know he's predestined to lose everything he loves.

I really liked this trilogy. Lee tells the story of one of the most influential characters in *Warhammer* history very well, though I might be biased

towards the novels thanks to so much screen time being devoted to my two favourite factions. Nagash is dastardly and unstoppable, a larger-than-life villain everyone can love to hate, and the plot is well thought out. The biggest weakness of the trilogy is that it could be very hard to get into for someone entirely unfamiliar with the *Warhammer* setting. If you're not already a fan, then the books are still good, but you'll probably get a lot less out of them than I did.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... a girl?

» 'Supergirl' TV pilot review

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DC comics has spent the past few years bringing their characters to life on the small screen. From the CW successes *Arrow* and *The Flash* to Fox's *Gotham*, the male heroes have established loyal fan bases of faithful viewers. Then comes CBS's *Supergirl* to put an end to that winning streak.

Supergirl opens with baby Kal-El's iconic departure from Krypton. It then adds to the story by including his 12-year-old cousin, Kara Zor-El, being prepped for a trip of her own to follow Kal-El to Earth and take care of him. This is the first indication of how the show sees its lead female character as a traditional caregiver instead of an independent hero.

On her journey, Kara's ship is knocked into the Phantom Zone from Krypton's explosion and she becomes suspended in time for 24 years, leading to her arriving on Earth years after Kal-El became Superman. Instead of Kara helping her

cousin, Clark Kent helps her by arranging for her to move in with the Danvers, a pair of scientists who helped him develop his powers, and their daughter, Alex.

At age 24, Kara (Melissa Benoist from *Glee*) works as an assistant to a *Devil Wears Prada*-like boss, Cat Grant (Calista Flockhart from *Ally McBeal*) at CatCo Worldwide Media in National City. Her boss explains that employees will have to be let go because the city doesn't have a hero like Superman to make headlines and sell publications. This sparks the idea in Kara that she could be a hero that makes headlines. However, it isn't until her sister, Alex (Chyler Leigh from *Grey's Anatomy*), is trapped in a crashing plane that Kara takes flight and manoeuvres the plane to a safe landing on the water. This reiterates the idea that what makes Kara a hero is her ability to take care of family.

After the rescue, the mysterious heroine is labelled Supergirl, a name that Kara protests should be Superwoman instead. However, Grant quickly corrects Kara—as well as any doubting viewers—by sassily explaining, "I'm a girl. And your boss. And powerful, and

rich, and hot, and smart. So if you perceive Supergirl as anything less than excellent— isn't the real problem you?"

The episode's set-up for the rest of the season is that Kara's ship escaping from the Phantom Zone 12 years ago also brought a ship of prisoners to Earth. They are determined to destroy Kara because her mother was the judge who sentenced them. However, in a clichéd twist, the leader of the prisoners turns out to be Astra, the identical twin sister of Kara's mother (Laura Benanti from *Nashville*), who wants to destroy her niece. Things were much simpler when Superman was the only known survivor of Krypton.

Supergirl boasts some impressive special effects scenes, such as the Krypton escape, the plane rescue, and a final battle between Supergirl and one of the escaped prisoners. However, the show's hang-up on whether or not a girl can be a hero makes it less interesting than other DC shows from production team Greg Berlanti and Andrew Kreisberg (*Arrow* and *The Flash*).

Supergirl may improve over the season and evolve into the fall series hit that it promised to be, but at this time, it hasn't lived up to its potential.



Image via CBS

Have an idea for a story? Let us know!

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SPORTS



Photo by Davie Wong

Golden finish

» Women's soccer takes first in the province

Davie Wong
Sports Reporter

It was a historic finish for the Royals this weekend as the women's team took first place in the PACWEST Conference for the first time in the history of Douglas College. The women tallied two 2-0 victories to cap off their wildly successful season with a berth at the CCAA National Championship.

The action started on Friday afternoon as the women took on the fourth place Kwantlen Eagles. The Royals started strong and found two goals early from Danae Harding and Nicolle Fraser. For the majority of the first half, the Royals outworked the Eagles, both on the field and in the air.

The Eagles came back swinging in the second half, constantly pressuring the Royals and limiting their opportunities. The defensive unit of the Royals was put to the test over and over again by the constant attack. With excellent play from goalkeeper Emmanuelle Langr, the Royals were able to walk away with a 2-0 victory. Nicolle Fraser was named the Player of the Game and the Royals found themselves in the rare position of playing their way into the history books.

After a good rest, the action picked back up on Saturday evening as the Royals prepared to play against the defending champions, Vancouver Island University (VIU). Right away, the game looked to be an exciting one as both teams traded possession back and forth. Neither team gained much ground on the other until the 26th minute of



Photo by Davie Wong

the game when a breakout from Marni McMillan resulted in a beautiful goal from Harding. From there, the Royals took a commanding stance over their opponent and dominated them for the rest of the first half. Very little made it past the defensive core of the Royals and what did was easily handled by goalkeeper Rebecca Mainardi, who made her triumphant return to the starting position.

The second half was very different for the defending champions, who saw their time of possession nearly sliced in half by the overwhelming skill of the Royals. The entire team played a very heavy contain style game, rarely allowing VIU out of their own half. This play resulted in Mikayla Hamilton scoring the insurance goal midway through the second half. From there on, VIU could not find a way to regain momentum as the Royals drove the ball into their half, over and over again. When they did

get out, the chances were poor, or the ball was quickly retaken by the Royals.

When the final whistle blew, the entirety of the Royals team poured out of the bleachers and bench area to celebrate the victory. McMillan was named the Player of the Game, while Nicolle Fraser was named the Top Midfielder of the tournament, and Danae Harding was named the Tournament MVP.

Coach Chris Laxton commented, "We've come a long way since losing last year. I'm proud of all the girls who worked so hard to get back here and hit another goal... By the end of the season, we were thought of a two player team. Both those players stepped up and we didn't concede. We've conceded 10 goals in 17 games so it's a team effort."

The women will now go on to Peterborough, Ontario to play in the National Championships from November 11-18.

This issue:

- ✓ Pyrrhic victory
 - ✓ OP Player of the Month: Marni McMillan
- And more!



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

INSTRUCTION	CONF	PTS
CBC	1-0	2
DOUGLAS	1-0	2
QUEST	1-0	2
VIU	1-0	2
CAMOSUN	0-1	0
CAPILANO	0-1	0
KPU	0-1	0
LANGARA	0-1	0

MEN'S BASKETBALL

INSTRUCTION	CONF	PTS
VIU	1-0	2
QUEST	1-0	2
CAPILANO	1-0	2
CBC	1-0	2
KPU	0-1	0
DOUGLAS	0-1	0
LANGARA	0-1	0
CAMOSUN	0-1	0

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

INSTRUCTION	CONF	PTS
CAPILANO	5-1	10
DOUGLAS	5-1	10
CAMOSUN	3-1	6
UFV	2-4	4
VIU	2-2	4
CBC	1-5	2
COTR	0-4	0

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

INSTRUCTION	CONF	PTS
DOUGLAS	6-0	12
CAMOSUN	4-0	8
UFV	4-2	8
CAPILANO	3-3	6
COTR	1-3	2
VIU	0-4	0
CBC	0-6	0

LONELY

Exploring the bane of the modern lifestyle

Humans, like their ancestors the primates, are social animals. Throughout the evolution of mankind, humans have stayed in groups, tribes, and communities. Social contact with other people is what makes us human and lays the very foundation for the concept of humanity. Feral children have proven this time and again. Because they were raised by animals without any human interaction, they not only behave and think like animals but they also show signs indicating they don't realize that they can do unique things because of their physical capabilities and limitations.

We have come a long way from our ancient social structure, where we fought for territories with neighbouring tribes and lived in caves, but our emotions are just the same. We feel happy to see familiar faces, get excited to see things we like or find interesting, feel intimidated by sudden intrusions from strangers, and feel sad when we get hurt. All these emotions and feelings are prevalent not simply because we are biologically tuned like that, but also because we live with people, and we panic if this essential contact lessens.

Recent studies have shown that many health issues like heart problems, especially in elderly people, are linked to loneliness or loss of social connectivity. Anxiety, desperation, and depression are largely caused when people are unable to express themselves, just because they have no one to talk to. Simple gestures like handshakes and smiles can make anyone who feels lonely very comfortable.

In her article "Life of Solitude," published in the *Globe and Mail*, writer Elizabeth Renzetti claimed: "In Vancouver, residents recently listed social isolation as their most pressing concern. More Canadians than ever live alone, and almost one-quarter describe themselves as lonely. In the United States, two studies showed that 40 per cent of people say they're lonely, a figure that has doubled in 30 years."

These statistics show that loneliness is a prevalent phenomenon that is increasing rapidly. It is affecting our society in an unusual way, and we are failing to realize the gravity of the situation. Let's evaluate our own situations and ask ourselves a

few questions. Do I go out a lot to cheer myself up? Do I speak a lot whenever I get the chance to? Can I talk to someone about my feelings without feeling hesitant? Do I take time to catch up with my old friends? These questions do not have a right or a wrong answer, neither can they be answered with a "yes" or "no" without being followed by a "but."

Most of us may not agree that we are alone, despite experiencing the despair. Professor Ami Rokach, a psychologist and a lecturer at York University in Toronto, told Renzetti, "There is such a stigma about it. People will talk about having depression or even schizophrenia, but [...] I've been practicing for more than 30 years, and never has anyone come to me and said, 'I feel lonely.' But then they start talking, and it comes out." Why do we feel so hesitant or embarrassed to accept that we are alone?

Psychologists have discovered that people who feel lonely also feel rejected, reports NewRepublic.com. The unwillingness to acknowledge rejection and other shortcomings is one of the major reasons behind our denial of loneliness. Another reason is that we don't want to be judged.

We are so caught up in our busy lifestyles that demand 40–50 hours of weekly work shifts to fulfill our basic needs, extensive study hours to get better grades, and weekends to catch up on lost sleep. Relationships have become so delicate and often don't survive, again due to the vicious cycle of work-home-work. This again, leads to one common consequence: loneliness.

We all crave for someone who understands us and will always be there for us, but not many can brag about having one.



LINESS

By Chitwan Khosla,
Features Editor

Many survival stories of people who were stranded in oceans, forests, and other places, have a certain aspect in common. Apart from their unwavering courage and will to live, all at some point discussed how frightened they were of dying alone.

Doctors and psychologists support these facts, saying that the need for someone to talk to and be cared for by increases proportionally with illness and old age.

However, social isolation is not restricted to people in nursing or retirement homes.

In her article, Renzetti mentioned a study that reported that almost two-thirds of Canadian university students (out of the 34,000 asked) said that they felt “very lonely.”

Not limited by demographics, loneliness is a plague that is rotting our society. Loneliness increases the release of stress hormones, making it difficult to cope with difficult situations.

People from all walks of life need to understand that nobody is completely alone. Healthy social interactions are as necessary for our emotional and mental well-being as healthy food is for our good physical health. Being able to talk, express, and share thoughts in such depth is a virtue no other life form on this planet other than humans enjoys. Language was created to assist in conversations, but not for being used only on Facebook or Twitter. Texting and sharing pictures or videos can never replace a face-to-face interaction. The illusion of being able to connect to hundreds of people at a time makes us ignore the person standing nearby who would actually pay heed to what we say. A million likes or retweets can never match a single warm hug from someone we love.

Our habit of constantly comparing ourselves with others—looking at their pictures and statuses on social media and thinking they have

better and happier lives than us—makes us feel inferior, and we tend to avoid talking to these “superior” people. It is painfully sad that, instead of making our lives more productive, we start making it worse when we see someone else happy. This behaviour encourages solitude and pessimism.

No matter how many friends we have, how many parties we attend, or how many vacations we take in a year, the

factor that measures how happy we are is very simple—quality time. Quality time with our families, friends, peers, and even strangers makes us feel content and stress-free.

We can make a difference in the lives of others and our own by participating in community.

Group therapy can be found with the help of meetings to discuss various topics, and classes for cooking, knitting, art, and more, is a simple, effective, and creative way to handle loneliness crisis. Taking some time to talk to your family and friends and seek their advice about your life and plans is also crucial.

But we must not forget that conversation is a two-way process, so we must not just talk, but also listen to others. Together, we need to grow as a community, as a society, and not

focus solely on our self-interests and self-obsession. Going out should be an opportunity to learn about and nurture our relationships, and not just to relieve boredom. Norman Cousins, famous world peace advocate and winner of Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, aptly said: “The eternal quest of the individual human being is to shatter his loneliness.”



Pyrrhic victory

» Men's soccer win bronze, lose berth at Nationals

Davie Wong
Sports Reporter

It was a rather bittersweet weekend for the men of the Royals soccer team. A victory on Saturday afternoon secured them third place in the conference after a heart-wrenching loss on Friday evening, but it was a step backwards for the team who was looking to make the trip to Nationals again.

The action started on Friday afternoon against the Kwantlen Eagles. A quick goal by the Eagles put the Royals down early, but the men fought hard to take it back. A strike by the Royals' forward Yassin Essa was all they needed to get back into it. The Eagles were quick to respond, however, scoring their second in the next possession. Down but not defeated, the Royals roared back, charging into the Eagles' zone, forcing them to foul for a penalty shot. With the penalty shot cashed-in and suddenly both teams found themselves going into extra time.

In was during extra time when heartbreak occurred. A corner, all but gifted to the Eagles by the ref, resulted in a header by Eagles striker Mateo

Serka that found the back of the net. It was that late goal that sealed the Royals' fate and they could do nothing but watch as the clock ticked away with a final score of 3-2 for the Eagles. It was an upset of massive proportions and the men knew it as some lay on the ground, stunned by the loss.

Saturday's action bade the men better luck. The Royals dominated the first half of the game against the Vancouver Island University Mariners, who were reeling from their upset to the Capilano Blues. Two early goals put the Royals in a commanding lead and they dominated the midfield. Halftime brought some surprising changes as the coaches decided to field a primarily rookie team on the field for the rest of the game.

The change was immediately visible as the Mariners capitalized against the Royals with two quick goals. The two teams traded goals again later in the game, as the lack of defensive prowess was evident. In the end, it was Douglas that came out on top with a late goal to finish the game 4-3.

Although happy that his team won bronze, co-coach



Photo by Davie Wong

Paul Bahia overall was not satisfied with his team's results: "Obviously we are upset with the way things came down. We didn't come out the way we expected to come out, playing-

wise... We had to be better as a team to get the win... I think we came in thinking we were going to win [against KPU], based on our skill and roster, and it didn't happen... Finishing first in the

league wasn't our main goal. Our main goal was to get back to Nationals... and I would call this year an unsuccessful year because our main goal is to go to Nationals."

OP Player of the Month: Marni McMillan

» Star striker for the Royals

Davie Wong
Sports Reporter

Marni McMillan has easily been one of the most dominant players at the collegiate level. Her 9 goals in 15 games placed her tied with teammate Danae Harding at the top of the leaderboard. She caps off her season with a second Player of the Year award win, adding to the one she won last year, as well as being named a league All-Star.

For such an excellent player, one would think that Marni has been playing since she could walk. In reality, Marni did not actually start playing until much later than her peers. While many began at the ages of four and five, Marni didn't actually play her first game until she was nine. With both her parents being professional swimmers, Marni also started with swimming, but made the full transition to soccer after she fell in love with game.

This season, Marni has contributed to the team in many other ways besides her talented striking. Her

leadership on and off the field is evident amongst her teammates and her coaches.

Coach Chris Laxton commented, "Marni is the definition of an impact player. This year she has played several positions and has found a way to positively contribute no matter where she has played. She is tightly marked by all opposition teams and creates space for other players with her unselfish play. She also somehow still finds a way to score for us, despite being so tightly marked."

"We are happy for Marni on winning her second consecutive PACWEST Player of the Year Award. It is well-deserved."

Co-captains Kelsey Acaster and Tiffany O'Krane also chimed in about the Player of The Year award winner.

"Marni is a reliable player who you can always count on to shine in critical moments. She encourages our team by playing at a high-intensity every practice and game. She uses her knowledge of the game to push people to be their best. Off the field, Marni lights up the room

with her positive energy and animated humour. With this dynamic set of strengths, Marni is a leader, and a great example of a true Royal," said Acaster.

O'Krane noted that, "On the field, Marni always has one goal and focus in mind; the team. She always wants the team to succeed. You will never once hear her say anything about her own individual success. In a heartbeat, she would give up everything for the team to succeed. She leads by example every time she steps onto the field by pushing her hardest. She will literally run until she cannot run anymore. People look up to her for her ability to keep going even when times are tough. She has a way of bringing the team back up when things start to get ugly. Teammates know they can rely on her for anything."

McMillan has been the epitome of an excellent player. Her contributions to her team, on and off the field, have helped her team to a PACWEST Provincial Championship and a shot at the National crown.



Photo by Davie Wong

Contact: *Brittney MacDonald, Life & Style Editor*
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LIFE & STYLE

- ☑ Petition to give Vancouver environmental activist his passport back
- ☑ Beauty on a Budget
- ☑ SXSW cancels two panels relating to Gamergate

And more!

The casual observer's guide to the galaxy and beyond

made via thinkstock

Cazzy Lewchuk
Staff Writer

Many of these names and definitions come from protocol by the International

Planet: A body that orbits

Star: The most abundant object in our universe, stars are incredibly hot balls of gases held together by gravity that support nuclear fusion. Both the mass and diameter of stars vary greatly; they also contract or expand depending on what stage of their “lives” they are in. Some stars are as little as 20 kilometres across, but the largest star in our universe is thought to be 2.4 billion (yes,

Galaxy: A shaped large star system formed by gravity. Dwarf galaxies contain a mere few billion stars, while larger ones, such as Earth's very own Milky Way, contain an estimated 200-400 billion stars. While the sheer number of galaxies in the universe (detected at 100 billion for now) makes it hard to measure size, we do know that it varies greatly. The smallest detected galaxy is "only" 300 light years across (a light year being equivalent to 9.5 trillion kilometres), with the largest known to be 2 million light years across. Galaxy groups and clusters are currently thought to be the largest observable

All in all, space is incredibly big, but also incredibly fascinating. So break out the new terms you've learned at parties to impress your friends, or attractive, astronomically-inclined people sitting alone at the bar. Like with space, the possibilities are endless.

» The pick-me-ups you need now that Halloween and Thanksgiving are over



Brittney MacDonald
Life & Style Editor
✉ lifeandstyle@theotherpress.ca

1. Pumpkin spice lattes are still a thing, and once those go away it's straight to eggnog lattes! Isn't life good?
2. The leaves are still changing colour. Apparently Martha

6. If you live in a remote area and used the excuse of trick-or-treaters to stock

10. Fall and winter food means gravy on everything!

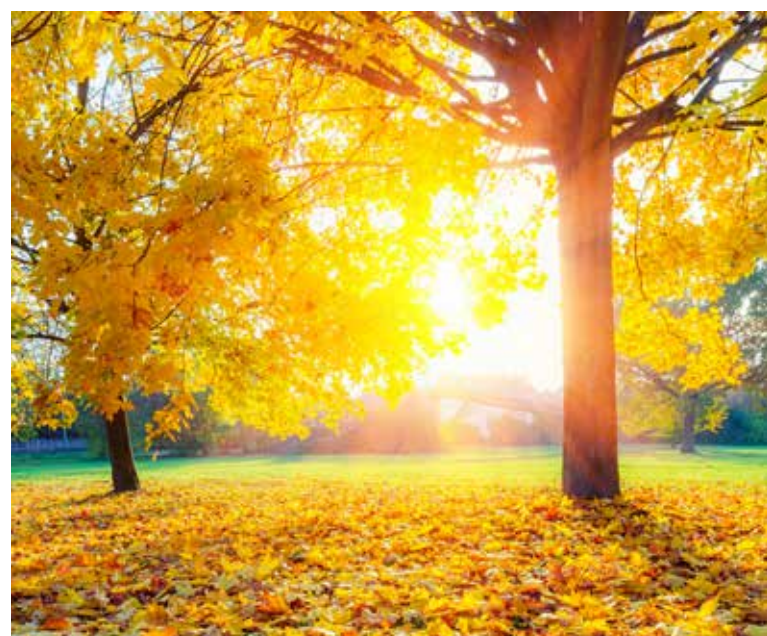


image via thinkstock

Beauty on a Budget

» Rimmel's Lasting Finish Matte Lipstick



Lauren Kelly
Assistant Editor
✉ assistant@theotherpress.ca

Although mid- and high-end makeup lines have become readily available over the past 10 years, relying on Sephora and Mac for your fix is expensive and often not feasible. In this new column, I'm going to offer suggestions for affordable options.

My favourite drugstore lipstick is Rimmel's Lasting Finish Matte Lipstick by Kate Moss. It comes in ten colours ranging from light nudes and pinks to bold oranges and deep reds, meaning that with just a couple you're set for pretty much anything. The only one I would not recommend is 113, the nude, because I find it washes me out and isn't flattering in the least, though lighter nudes tend to suit people with darker skin tones. My personal favourite is 105, a pinkish brown that somehow fits me perfectly. I once even had

a woman on the SkyTrain ask me if I worked for a cosmetics company when I was wearing it!

What I like about these lipsticks is how, despite being matte, they never feel (or look) drying on me, but since it's fall now it doesn't hurt to apply a bit of lip balm beforehand. On that note, I find they always last a long time compared to some of my other lipsticks, and I haven't noticed them form the dreaded lip liner ring after eating—although that may not always hold true on the darker colours.

Rimmel also has a non-matte line of Kate Moss lipsticks, if you prefer a shinier finish. Although I only have two, I get a lot of wear out of them and would definitely recommend them. I usually see both lines selling for \$8–9, but I've seen them on sale for as low as \$6, meaning these are an affordable way to build up your lipstick wardrobe.

Suggestions for makeup Lauren should cover? Email her at assistant@theotherpress.com



Photo by Lauren Kelly

Petition to give Vancouver environmental activist his passport back

» Public asks Justin Trudeau to allow Paul Watson back in the country



Brittney MacDonald
Life & Style Editor
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Justin Trudeau isn't even in office yet and a petition is already going around asking for his immediate action. Though politics might not be your forte, as a Vancouver resident you might want to take note of this one—after all, it concerns one of our own.

Paul Watson is a founding member of Greenpeace and the founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a worldwide non-profit organization that commands a small fleet of ships that go all over the globe protecting marine life, most notably whales and cetaceans, from poaching and legal hunts. They are best known for their efforts in the North Sea, which inspired a reality series on Discovery Channel called *Whale Wars*, and their continued protests regarding the

Taiji dolphin hunt with former *Flipper* trainer Ric O'Barry. Watson also happens to call Vancouver home—or, at least, he did, before his Canadian passport was revoked by former prime minister Stephen Harper.

Watson is no damsel-in-distress, mind, and he does have outstanding warrants regarding his personal brand of “eco-justice,” which includes shooting flare guns at Japanese whaling vessels and intentionally trying to sabotage their propeller systems.

The thing that made even Watson's naysayers stand up and pay attention, though, were accusations that Harper revoked Watson's passport without a trial, effectively denying him return to his home country and access to Canadian embassies in his worldwide travels.

Watson's passport was seized three and a half years



Photo via www.maxisciences.com

ago by German officials, stating that it was no longer valid, and though Canadian Citizenship and Immigration denied comment, Watson made it pretty clear he blamed Stephen Harper. The confiscation of the passport happened conveniently around a time of legal turmoil for Watson, following repeated conflicts with Japanese authorities.

Watson has been barred from Canada ever since. Admittedly, had it been anyone else claiming government conspiracy, even I would have scoffed. But reflecting now on Harper's track record and his blatant dislike of environmentalists, Watson's conclusion doesn't seem so farfetched.

After the recent election,

environmental conservationists and supporters of Watson banded together to create a petition asking Trudeau to re-issue Watson's passport and allow him back into the country.

For more information or to sign the petition you can go to <http://www.change.org/organizations/g-party>

Reflecting now on Harper's track record and his blatant dislike of environmentalists, Watson's conclusion doesn't seem so farfetched.

Public backlash against SXSW decision to cancel two panels relating to Gamergate

» Discussion of online harassment brought down by online harassment



Brittney MacDonald
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The geek subculture has never been under public scrutiny more than now, and with movements like Gamergate and Cosplay is Not Consent, conventions have been attempting to revamp how they both see and deal with issues of harassment. But with a community that largely communicates through the Internet, topics such as sexism and acceptable behavior will always be a hot button for a flood of negative energy—case in point, South by Southwest (SXSW).

SXSW is a collection of conventions and music festivals in Austin, Texas that covers many facets of interactive media. Recently, the organization suffered backlash for announcing plans to cancel two of their upcoming panels due to threats they received. The sadly ironic thing is that these panels, which have been brought down by online harassment, were meant to discuss online harassment.

More specifically, the two panels were intended to create a discussion regarding gendered harassment both in videogames and the videogame industry. Entitled “SavePoint: A Discussion on the Gaming Community,” and “Level Up:

Overcoming Harassment in Games,” both panels planned to address the events of Gamergate, with one panel offering up a debate-style discussion featuring people that were both for and against the movement.

For those of you unfamiliar, Gamergate was a controversial movement that began in August 2014. The movement was against the recent surge of critique centred on issues of sexism and progressivism (a philosophical title for a broad idea regarding issues of social growth within society) in the videogame subculture. Gamergate is most known as the catalyst that led to the harassment of many women within the videogame industry. Radical supporters of the movement released private information containing both the home and work addresses of various female programmers, developers, designers, community administrators, and streamers (people who record themselves playing games online). People who spoke up against this behavior also became targets. This led to threats of violence, rape, and murder—even forcing some women to move once their home addresses became compromised.

The Gamergate movement has largely died down, though radical supporters are still out there—most recently making threats towards Prime Minister Justin Trudeau when he spoke out advocating feminism,



Photo via www.artefactgroup.com

specifically addressing Gamergate as a reason why more men need to support it.

SXSW claims that threats of on-site violence were the reason they decided to cancel the two panels, but the decision has not gone unopposed. BuzzFeed, an Internet media company that has prominence at the various conventions and shows, answered the news by saying that they would withdraw from any and all SXSW programming in 2016 if the decision was not revoked. In a letter published on their website BuzzFeed stated, “BuzzFeed has participated deeply in SXSW for years, and our staffers are scheduled to speak on or moderate a half-

dozen panels at SXSW 2016... We will feel compelled to withdraw them if the conference can't find a way to do what those other targets of harassment do every day—to carry on important conversations in the face of harassment. We hope you can support the principle of free speech and engage a vital issue facing us and other constituents on the event.”

As of yet, the two panels remain cancelled. Hugh Forrest, director of SXSW Interactive, released a statement in support of the decision, claiming: “If people cannot agree, disagree, and embrace new ways of thinking in a safe and secure place that is free of

online and offline harassment, then this marketplace of ideas [meaning SXSW] is inevitably compromised. ... Maintaining civil and respectful dialogue within the big tent is more important than any particular session [panel].”

Forrest’s “greater good” reasoning has done little to impress the public, mostly due to the fact that the two panels’ intended purpose was to create that meaningful dialogue he seems to think the panels’ removal is maintaining.

In any case, SXSW has five months to change their mind before BuzzFeed removes its employees from the festival’s programming.

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This week's tweet is by @dlowkontou

Have an idea for a story? Let us know!
Contact: Elliot Chan, Opinions Editor
✉ opinions@theotherpress.ca

OPINIONS

To be reviewed

» Are crowd-sourced reviews still effective?

 **Elliot Chan**
Opinions Editor
✉ opinions@theotherpress.ca

The recent *South Park* episode “You’re Not Yelping” shone a light on the power of public opinion. Review sites such as Yelp, Zomato, and Rotten Tomatoes have given regular everyday folks like you and me the power to vote up or down virtually anything. This type of social governance seems to be democracy at its finest, since everyone who has a voice is encouraged to use it. But are we really getting honest reviews or are we—as pseudo-experts—trying to sway people away from their own authentic experience with our biased perceptions?

Ultimately, all reviews are biased. It doesn’t matter if you are getting them from Roger Ebert or your mother; regardless,

the review is a product of the person’s life, thoughts, and opinions. This is great, because freedom of speech is wonderful. But not everyone is posting reviews. In fact, only an incredibly small percentage of people actually create content on review sites. Journalist Susan Kuchinskas informed us of an interesting statistic, known as the “1/9/90 Rule.” The rule states that only one per cent of people write reviews. Nine per cent of people will drop in on those reviews and rate them. The 90 per cent are solely readers, swayed by those reviews by the one per cent.

I’m opinionated, but I’m not a reviewer. I have never written a review on Yelp, or any other site that encourages me to. Why should I? I don’t believe people should do or not do anything based on my opinion

and experience. Don’t listen to what I say, because what I’ll say is go watch *Jack and Jill* starring Adam Sandler and come to your own opinion on whether it’s good or not. Don’t simply look at the ratings on IMDB.com and automatically write it off. Make your own discovery, not just an easy conclusion via crowd-sourced reviews.

They say professional reviewers are dying out, and I believe that makes sense—not because reviews don’t have some substance though. Quality ones are introspective commentary on pieces of art or experiences. It’s—in its own way—literary. However, consumers don’t want introspection. Consumers want yay or nay: should I go here, or should I keep searching?

The Internet influences so many of our spending decisions. I say we should turn



Screenshot from South Park

that off for a bit and come to our own conclusions. Let’s not listen to that one per cent for a little while and see what we can discover on our own. It’s a risk, sure, but I know we have clear judgement, capable of distinguishing between good and bad. I encourage you, the next time you are scrolling on your smartphone looking for a

place to eat, ignore the star ratings and reviews, and just give a restaurant a chance. How can you know what is good when you are constantly avoiding bad?

This returns us to the ultimate question: are crowd-sourced reviews still effective? I don’t know, but they’re probably as effective as this article.

All-female cast is a lazy gimmick

» Why the ‘Ghostbusters’ remake may as well just be called ‘Bridesmaids 2’

Alex Stanton
Staff Writer

When I think of the current climate of over-the-top political correctness in North America, I don’t sit there at my computer and roll my eyes every time someone gets hurt because of something mean or “triggering” said on the Internet. Sure, I’ll snort a laugh once in a while reading about sheltered millennials in academia having nervous breakdowns at the mere mention of ideas they dislike. But a man named Paul Feig came along and made me realize, more than anything, how sad it is that even adults—and not just those millennial kids—use progressive buzzwords and accuse people of bigotry for no other reason than to shut down legitimate dialogue about something they disagree with.

For those of you who haven’t seen a raunchy, R-rated chick flick since 2008, Feig is Hollywood’s apparent go-to-guy for said genre, having directed the wildly successful films *Bridesmaids*, *The Heat*, and *Spy*—all of which feature comedian Melissa McCarthy. Far from finished in the business of chick flicks, 2016 will once again have McCarthy

and Kristen Wiig co-starring in a film written and directed by Feig called *Ghostbusters*.

As big of a film fan as I may be, I still can’t quite put my finger on what it is about rebooting decades-old franchises that appeals so much to contemporary filmmakers. I get that show business is still a business, and nothing gets the lowest common denominator paying for movie tickets quite like familiarity, but it still stinks of writer’s block and stagnant creativity.

Feig, mistakenly believing that a change this drastic was necessary or creative, decided to cast four women in the roles of the four Ghostbusters. In the wake of what I consider to be pretty reasonable criticisms, Feig accused his detractors of spouting, in his words, “vile, misogynist shit.”

If we’re speaking purely technically, then perhaps Feig has a point; there were probably quite a few rude, anonymous kids on Twitter who went overboard, likely resulting in them saying downright sexist things. Some of them probably even said “This movie sucks because it’s all women and women suck,” which is the picture painted



Photo by Hopper Stone via Sony Pictures

by Feig when describing the criticism. Unfortunately, that’s the Internet, and nothing turns people into wanton assholes more than an anonymous, worldwide soap box.

I can’t blame the man for defending his art, but there are plenty of legitimate reasons as to why people are pissed about this. Is a *Ghostbusters* remake even necessary? If so, why? The 1984 version was a smash hit in part because of its immense

originality. Considering the director, the fact that the cast is all-female for no apparent reason strikes me as jarring and gimmicky to the point where I’m inclined to call it anti-feminist. There should be more original films about well-rounded female characters, instead of shoehorning them into old roles under the guise of progressiveness.

Feig is a talented enough filmmaker. I enjoyed the hell

out of both *Bridesmaids* and *The Heat*, and, like everyone else, I think McCarthy is shit-your-drawers hilarious in just about every role she plays. I can only imagine what could come out of another Feig/McCarthy/Wiig project in which the script isn’t recycled from three decades ago. Now that I’ve finally established myself as a loose fan of his work, I’ll go ahead and establish that I’m going to skip out on Feig’s take on *Ghostbusters*.

A rotten rating system

» Why numerical ratings need to die

Benjamin Howard
Columnist

Ah, the golden glimmer of the 10/10 rating on IGN, or the 100 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes. The concretely defined numbers can make a rating seem like a cold hard fact. Unfortunately, these numerical ratings are anything but factual or scientific. No matter the rating scale, whether it's out of 5, 10, or 100, there are no common rating criteria. A standard is missing not only between different review websites, such as IGN or Destructoid, but within these websites. A 10/10 from John Doe on IGN is not the same as a 10/10 from Joe Blow on the same website. With no common grounds for numerical ratings to stand on, it only gets worse when one reaches the core problem: numbers do not convey feelings well.

This is easily demonstrated by how often critics break their

own scoring conventions, such as when a critic will give a work 4.5/5 stars, or 7.8/10. In that situation, the critic, feeling unable to properly convey a nuanced opinion within the rating system, has decided to cheat by giving out a decimal, or a half. One might ask, then, why not simply increase the total? So, instead of rating out of 10, why not 100? Well, there's still a problem: feelings cannot be quantized. The difference between 78/100 and a 79/100 is completely arbitrary, especially when talking about something as subjective as art.

Of course, when ratings made by professional critics are failing to function, they're only worse in the hands of the public. Websites such as Rotten Tomatoes and Metacritic use the combined scores of many critics, professional, and amateur alike, to calculate the average rating of a particular movie or video

game. It sounds like a good idea; the voice of the people can average out the "snobby" voice of critics, and vice versa. Unfortunately, the voice of the people lacks nuance. They vote to extremes. They either liked it, in which case it gets five stars, or they disliked it, so it gets one star. I might come off as elitist here, but coming from someone who enjoys a thoughtful critique, it's disappointing to see so many things grossly overrated (and underrated) by the public.

Worse than the public's tendency to overrate a product is its tendency to overrate the rating itself. This is partly due to the emphasis the reviewer himself puts on the numerical rating. For example, at the end of an IGN review video, the screen is covered by a giant, out-of-ten score. And, sure enough, in the comment section of said video, most are arguing about the number the product received.



Image via rottentomatoes.com

In the end, the customer often gives more consideration to the score of the review than the review itself. All the nuance and detail of the reviewer will fly right over the viewer's head when waiting for that

big shiny number at the end.

Numbers and opinions don't belong together; they serve only to deceive and confuse. That's why I'm giving my review on reviews a 4.2/7.

Give me give me

» What to do when you reek of desperation

Elliot Chan
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We all want something. We all have objectives and goals. That's good. That's the fuel that propels us forward in life. However, there are times when we've been sitting idle or maybe even fallen behind. We end up thinking that good things will never happen, and that we'll never get back to where we were or achieve what we want. It could be money, romance, competition, or personal pursuit—when we put all our chips down on the table, we can't help feeling desperation creep up.

Our desperation is a response to our stress. It's useful in a life-or-death situation. When we are desperate for food, for example, we would go to incredible length to feast. There's nothing stronger than the will to live. But when it comes to being desperate in a social interaction, such as a job interview or a first date, our undeniable hunger may be incredibly off-putting.

Pivot away from the problem, and work on something else for a bit.

Nobody likes being around people who are desperate. Nobody wants to work with someone who is on edge about every task, or go out to dinner with someone who has an agenda. Most of us want to relax and not feel our heart beating out of our chest. Now, I understand that simply saying "Don't be desperate" is not the solution. It's not a switch you can turn off and on. It goes deeper than that.

Desperation is rooted in fear. You fear that you'll be in debt forever. You fear that you'll be alone forever. You fear that all your hard work will be for nothing. To lose the smell of desperation on you, you need to wash the fear off yourself,

and be reminded that what progress you are going to make will be gradual. Do people win lotteries? Sure. But you cannot bank on that. What you need to do is accept that you'll have to take baby steps towards your goals. You'll feel less desperate if your tasks seem achievable to begin with.

Alternatively, you can



Illustration by Ed Appleby

just forget about it. So you are single, and worried that you'll be alone forever. You've gone on dates, but there's no magic and it just didn't click. Stop dating for a bit. Take a class. Go on a trip. Meet new people. Pivot away from the problem and

work on something else for a bit. Build your confidence back up in something else and then dive back into dating after.

Nowadays, we are not faced with deadly situations. Our own fears are constructed inside our own brain, and that's where they

fester. When you wonder why you are striking out, it could be because the people around you can smell your desperation. Get clean, relax, and know that you'll get many chances. But before you take another one, maybe take a break first.

Lesson learned

» What we should do with our social media accounts in the face of professionalism



Elliot Chan
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When bodybuilder and middle school teacher Mindi Jensen received an ultimatum from her academic employers to either delete her workout/bikini pictures from her Instagram account or lose her job, it seemed like the whole world collectively rolled their eyes. Here we go again.

There was a time when I thought my teachers lived in the school after the bell rung and plotted our next quiz and homework assignments. While they might have been preparing the following day's lecture, teaching was far from the only thing on their mind. Turns out, they do have a life outside of school and they barely thought of me after work—just like all people who make money during the day and go home to pursue their personal hobbies and projects in the evening.

Parents of all people should know that. So the fact that some parents approached

North Sanpete Middle School's administrators, the people in charge of Jensen's career, and complained about the pictures on her personal account is a little appalling. The parents go on to claim that the images of Jensen were "inappropriate" and "pornographic." Do those parents even know what porn is? Because I scroll through Instagram once a day and I never find "porn," no matter how hard I scroll.

While it's true that a professional working closely with children should remain decent on all platforms, it's unclear where the line is drawn. Here's how I see it: let's say the teacher was a man and he had pictures of himself working out and in swim trunks—no!—Speedos. Would he get in trouble? Would the school board threaten to fire him if he didn't take down those pictures? If that does happen, it doesn't make the news. What is happening is oppression. What the parents are actually saying is: "You can't show those pictures, because you are too pretty and you are

arousing our kids. I don't know how to discuss sexuality with them or explain that teachers are people too, with personal lives and aspirations, so I'll just blame it on you, fit lady."

At the end of the day, the school came to their senses, realized the legless claim the parents were standing on, and apologized to Jensen. But the question remains: how can we know if something is appropriate for the Internet or not? With nude and embarrassing pictures soaring this way and that through the air, we can't be certain who would take offence. Therefore, we must go back to the rule of thumb: would we be okay if our mothers saw that picture of us? If the answer is yes, then share it. If no, then maybe it's best to keep it in our private archives.

When it's all said and done, Jensen will have a great lesson to teach to her students, one that stems from confidence and defending personal convictions. I think that's a good lesson to learn in the social media age.



Image via Instagram

The conservation conversation

» Why Conservatives get a bad rap



Adam Tatelman
Staff Writer

About a week before the Canadian federal election, I asked my nephew whom he would vote for if he were old enough: "I don't know," he said, "but I wouldn't vote for the Conservatives, because they just want everything to stay the same." I was rather surprised. My nephew, at the ripe age of 11, had already decided that the Conservative government is for shit. It's a simplistic analysis of course, but one that sounds eerily familiar.

All political parties have a habit of strawmanning one another in the image of their most radical respective supporters; that's just politics. However, a strong cultural bias against the right has evolved. Conservatives are routinely regarded as out-of-touch fossils who are too greedy to share their ill-gotten gains with those less fortunate. When your average person's perception of a political party sounds like an attack ad, I start to think that the seeds of this popular opinion are planted early on.

The difference between Liberal and Conservative ideologies is essentially the

dichotomy between social welfare and self-reliance and the financial practices resulting from it. This is not to say that Conservatives would like to abolish all social welfare; rather, they want minimal government involvement in such things. Where a Liberal government would universalize these welfare programs, Conservatives are biased towards "user-pay" models.

Consider the Canada Pension Plan. Like income tax, unemployment insurance and medical services pension premiums are a payroll deduction. At age 65, retirees are entitled to reclaim this money at a monthly rate. However, if your yearly income exceeds a certain limit, you will be prohibited from reclaiming the funds. As with all welfare plans, no Canadian citizen may opt out, meaning that the Canadians who pay the highest income tax also pay for a service they are not permitted to use.

The fundamental difficulty with social welfare plans is, once they are instated, they become immortal. The more numerous and readily available they become, the less incentive there is for people to save their own money since the safety nets

are so wide and deep. Higher taxes also make for greater welfare reliance, further de-incentivizing personal financial responsibility. This setup both assumes and ensures that no one can save any meaningful amount of money without government assistance.

Furthermore, there is much to suggest that expanding welfare plans is a self-defeating measure. The more social welfare plans are institutionalized, the higher spending budgets climb. This means that income taxes must be hiked in order to maintain the welfare plans. So it's not free money, and despite constant Liberal advocacy for the working class, their proposed minimum wage hikes would be unnecessary without the tax burden created by their own welfare policies.

A certain amount of social welfare is necessary for those who cannot help themselves: the physically or mentally disabled, for instance. This is where the more conservative idea of user pay comes into play. Since those who need welfare services will be taxed anyway, allow those who wish to save their own money to opt out of any and all welfare plans. Non-



Image via www.macleans.ca

compulsory insurance would go a long way toward minimizing the pitfalls of excessive welfare institutionalization by reducing the number of people who rely on it.

When Conservative governments vote down expansions to social welfare plans, it is not done out of some Scrooge McDuck motive, but rather a desire to slow the

downward spiral of national indebtedness. Nobody likes to pay income tax, and yet nobody seems to recognize that, in the end, they will always pay for someone's insurance as long as social welfare continues to expand. The Conservative goal is not to take people's welfare away, but rather to reduce the need for welfare in the first place.

Have an idea for a story? Let us know!

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HUMOUR

This issue:

- ✓ Love bus
 - ✓ Not easy being red
 - ✓ BREAKING: Lottery scandal unveiled
- And more!



Illustration by Ed Appleby

Fun things to do this month

» A list of great activities afforded by December's neighbour, November!



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1. **Mourn.** Mourn the end of October, with its colourful leaves and bright days. See how the branches become bare, dead. Look back on the joyous night out with your friends, everyone in fun and exciting costumes. This will be your month-long hangover.
2. **Wait.** Wait for December, the month of joy and good cheer. The month of beautiful snow and festive holidays and loved ones and laughter. Imagine the warm fires and delicious pastries and all the eggnog you can drink. School will be but a forgotten memory, and you will barely have to cook for yourself any more.
3. **Remember.** Remember those fallen brothers out in the battlefields, giving their lives for your freedom. The pain that they suffered and the torment they endured day in and day out. Take school or work off to remember the dead. Make a day of it.
4. **Endure.** Endure the long lectures of November, the relentless drone of the professor's voice. Trudge your way through the last few weeks of midterms, then term papers, then studying for finals. Make the same pasta dish you have every night, and eat those leftovers the next day for lunch because you just can't bring yourself to put effort into anything. Hold on, brave traveller, and crawl towards the white light of December.
5. **Celebrate.** Celebrate the fact that you have made it this far through the semester, and that November is just a month like any other, and that it will soon be over. Celebrate with a bottle of cheap rum by yourself in a dimly lit room as the rain comes down outside your window. Good times.
6. **Sense.** Sense the month engulf you entirely. Feel the cold in the air, and the creeping chill in your toes. Feel the rain drip down the back of your neck. Watch as the world gets darker and darker each day, with every tomorrow more void of light than the last.
7. **Prevail.** Every second earned of November is a second behind you. Eventually they will add up, making hours, days, weeks. Withstand the dark chill of November, and leave it all behind you after 30 gruelling days. Arrive at December 1 a champion, made stronger by the trials you had to endure. Be at peace, and know that November is a long 11 months away once more.



PhotoIllustration

Love bus

» How to woo people on public transit



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Public transit: the one place in public where people enjoy being talked to! It is a truly social space where both friendships and love thrive. However, do you ever find yourself confused or scared to approach people? Try these great conversation starters during your next transit adventure.

Let's say for example, you see an attractive guy trying to figure out the crossword in this morning's *Metro*. Use their interest in the word game to your advantage. Try suggesting that words can be used. Better yet, snatch the paper out of their hands and finish the whole damned thing yourself. Once he's not distracted by the crossword, he can pay more attention to you.

A similar principle applies to the cute political science student who is reading what is happening this week in Parliament. Snatch the paper out of her hands. Rip out the picture of Justin Trudeau. You'll be damned if some smooth talking, young, exciting, slightly-dangerous-because-of-tattoos-and-pot-yet-still-enough-of-a-good-boy-to-take-home-to-mama and oh-so-attractive Prime Minister is going to outshine you.

People love to know if they smell good, especially compared to the wretched stench of public transportation. Tell him that his cologne smells great. Is it Calvin Klein? Better take a good whiff of his hair or arm or abs to find out.

For some, the bus is a great place to catch a nap during the early morning

commute to work, or the post-party ride of shame home. You know what makes naps even better? Cuddling. Cuddle up close to sleeping beauty. It will be a pleasant surprise for them to wake up to.

You can't go wrong with offering someone a drink. Offer them a glass of wine. For best results, pour the wine between stations so that you don't spill 2014 port all over their Louboutin's they spent way too much on at Nordstrom.

Sometimes, you'll encounter someone who is listening to music quietly with their headphones while you are on your way to work at your fantastic job at a music store called VMH. Pull some scissors out of your bag and cut the cord of their headphones. Take the opportunity to introduce yourself, and then explain to them how much you love your job at VMH. Be sure to mention that VMH is having a clearance sale this weekend on all Beats by Dre, at 25 per cent off! Leave them your business card and tell them how much you're looking forward to seeing them at the VMH, where you work and love.

Perhaps the person of your interest is edgy and carries a longboard with them. Surely, you can get their number by appealing to their adrenaline junkie nature. To do this, simply overthrow the bus driver and start driving the bus through downtown Vancouver, making sure that the bus does not decrease to a speed under 80 km/h (otherwise the bus may explode.) Bonus points if, while pulling of this move, you are Keanu Reeves and that long boarder is Sandra Bullock.

Not easy being red

» Hellboy: A minority of one?



Adam Tatelman
Staff Writer

Last week, the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense (BPRD) agent Hellboy's likeness was co-opted without permission for a Minority Rights Group International (MRGI) ad campaign. Rather than pressing charges, Hellboy entered into a public debate at the 2015 MRGI Conference with spokesperson Arthur White.

Hellboy was late due to security personnel classifying his stone fist as a weapon. As it was impossible for him to disarm without maiming himself, he was required to wear a zip tie that secured the fist to his belt. During questioning after the debate, Hellboy called this regulation "a load of crap."

With amphibian BPRD agent Abraham Sapien cheering him on from the audience, Hellboy finally shook hands with Mr. White. Following that, the opening arguments began.

"As a person of colour," said White, "you surely understand the need for greater representation of minority groups. We at MRGI feel your unique situation is an excellent example of this need. You are, as a demon, a poorly represented minority here on earth."

"Everybody's a minority somewhere," said Hellboy, as he lit up a cigar. "You want more human representation down in Hell?"

"That's hardly the point," said White. "I think you'd make



Image via www.denofgeek.com

a perfect face for our campaign. Your work is sadly unappreciated on the basis of your appearance. Your struggle exemplifies the difficulties all minorities face here in the western world. With us, you can help show them what they're really worth."

"People never appreciate civil servants. Doesn't matter if we fight crooks, fires, or monsters," Hellboy replied, as he blew a smoke ring in White's direction. "Whaddaya want me to do? Petition for demon quotas in the workplace? I like my job just fine. I know what I'm worth, and I don't need anybody else to tell me that."

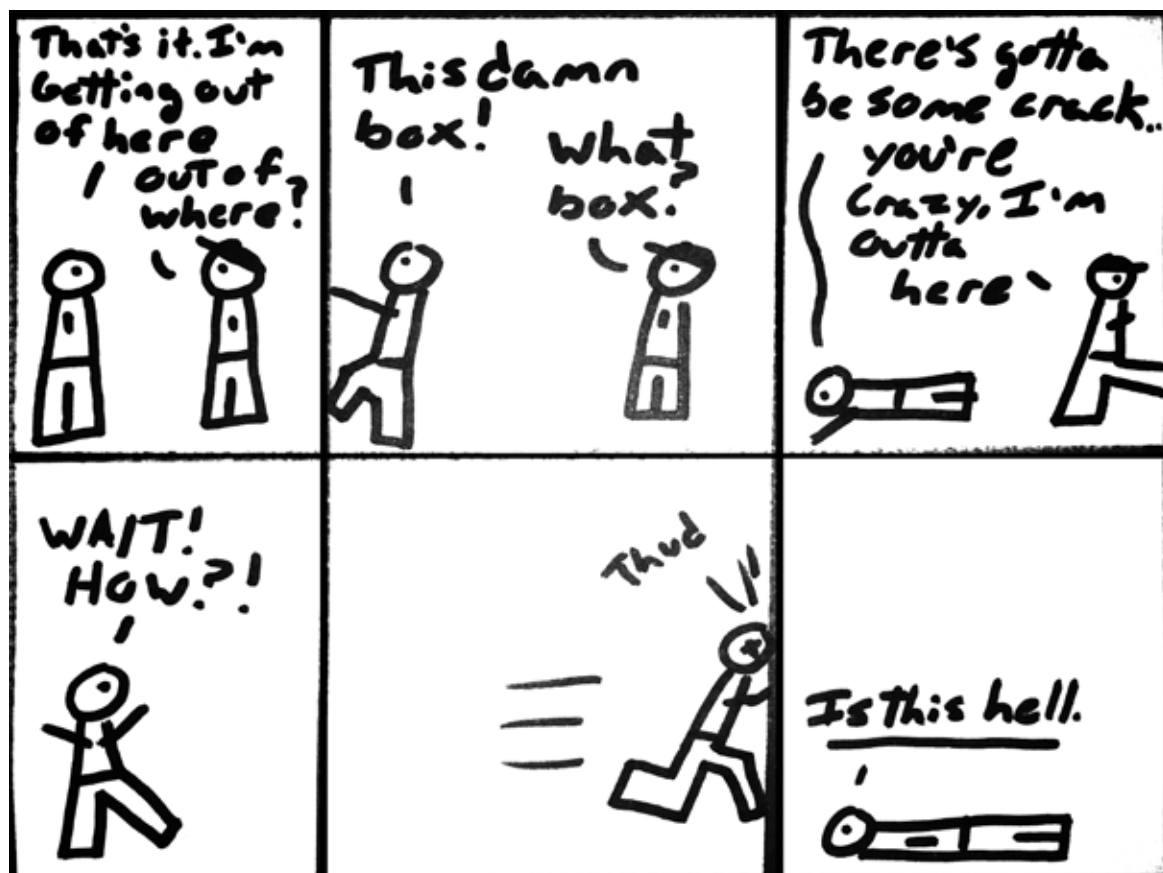
"Think of the big picture," said White between coughing fits. "Back in 1952, the United Nations had to grant you the status of Honourary Human. Before that, you weren't even a person in the eyes of the law! It's that kind of thinking that we need to challenge! How

can we do that without—"

"I've had about enough of this crap," Hellboy said, as he snapped the zip tie and snatched Mr. White's microphone with his stone hand. "When things change, they always change slow. That's okay. Bringin' up the past doesn't help anybody. I look how I look; you can take it or leave it. Because right now, the only one makin' a big deal out of my skin is you."

The moment Hellboy concluded his speech, the smoke detectors went off, triggering the sprinklers and drenching the crowd. Hellboy dropped the mic, walked out of the conference with Agent Sapien, and headed down to the local pub. Mr. White, stunned by this turn of events, was extracted from the building by the Fire Department in a state of shock.

Whether or not this incident will serve as the basis for a third *Hellboy* film remains to be seen.



by Chandler Walter

BREAKING: Lottery scandal unveiled

» Millions in rage after truth told



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Riots and protests erupted late last Monday night after Lotto Max founder Chris Evans revealed a shocking secret on his deathbed.

Evans had been terminally ill for months leading up to last Monday, and when it seemed the doctors could do nothing more to keep him alive, Evans demanded to be broadcast all across the country as his last wish.

News and radio stations across the United States tuned in for the 30 seconds of airtime, while others viewed it by a live stream on YouTube. Here is an exact transcription of the man's last words:

"Hello, all. My name is Chris Evans, and I am the founder of the largest lottery in the world. I have a secret I would like to reveal to you all, as my last words in this life... No one ever actually wins the lottery." Evans said, and the country immediately erupted in shock.

7-11s were raided; their lottery machines, torched in the parking lots. Lotto kiosks at malls were destroyed by the hands of those who were once customers. Amid all the destruction, very few were aware that Evans had not actually finished his speech.

"...Instead," Evans said over the televisions, radios, and computer screens everywhere, "the bulk of the money that was paid by you fine people, mostly just \$5 a week, has been going directly and completely to charitable organizations across the world. Each and every one of you has unknowingly contributed to the goodwill of our entire planet, and I think that that is the greatest prize of them all." The broadcast ended, Chris Evans died at 95 years old, and the mobs grew larger.

"I was going to buy a helicopter!" shouted one angry charity-giver, with a bandana tied around his face and a Molotov cocktail in his hand. "I would have gotten so much ass if I had that helicopter!"

"This is an absolute travesty," said charitable Good Samaritan Alexis Chan. "I did not spend all those dollars to help out needy and starving children halfway across the world! I spent that money because I wanted to be filthy rich and not have to work another day in my life! I've been stolen from, robbed!"

Meanwhile, charity organizations in third world countries were just getting the news that their funding was being cut: "Oh well," said small and malnourished Abayomi Fofana. "We will make do with what we have."



Image via thinkstock

Halloween ends, winter begins

» The common folk demand snowflakes and candy canes



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With the ending of October, many Vancouverites have found themselves so totally over autumn, pumpkin spice lattes, and any leaves left on the trees, no matter how colorful.

This sudden and abrupt shift in philosophy came, as it does each year, at the stroke of midnight on October 31. Many Vancouver residents wandered home in their costumes, damning the crunchy leaves beneath their feet, and wishing for the sky to open up and rain down a blizzard.

"I just don't get what's taking so long," said Vancouver resident Jenifer Jones during an interview on November 2. "Autumn is over, Halloween is done. Why is it still mildly warm out?"

Jones was spending the evening tearing down the Halloween decorations that covered her house, and was replacing them with colorful lights, fake snow, and festive wreathes. "Never too soon for Jesus," Jones said.

Local Starbucks coffee houses are also reporting a shocking change in their costumers, with angry mobs forming outside the stores, waving signs and burning old jack-o'-lanterns.

"Down with pumpkin spice!" the mob chanted late



Image via netflix

into the night. Evidently, they were demanding the immediate substitution of peppermint tea and eggnog hot chocolates before the night was done.

Local resident and mob member Elliot Wilson explained the fire that was burning in the hearts of each rioter: "We will not stand for this! Almost two months of waiting before we get another special occasion when we get to be drunk and act festive? Too long, I say. Bring on Christmas now!"

Wilson speculated that it may be more than the calendars that are condemning the people to this "hellish nightmare," as he put it. "It's that Justin guy's fault. He just wasn't ready, I guess. Now the common people pay the price. Give us some snow, oh powerful Prime Minister!"

Hilary Burton, active

member of PACMIN (People Against Christmas Music In November) said that she is thrilled about Starbucks' resilience against negotiating with the mob. "You can't give 'em anything," Burton said about the mob. "The moment you do, those bastards will start wanting Santas in the malls, or Christmas trees in their windows. Before you know it, they'll be demanding Halloween stores in January, or Flag Day all year round."

While PACMIN is firmly against any holiday starting early, they have a strong vendetta against early Christmases: "If I have to listen to that damn little drummer boy go 'pu-rumpumpumpum' any sooner than what is culturally necessary, I may just get violent with some strategically licked candy canes," Burton said.



by David Manky

by David Manky



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